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HOUSE MEMORIAL 68

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Thomas E. Swisstack

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO SENTENCING COMMISSION TO STUDY AND
MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON SERVICES AND PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT
OFFENDER REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION AND REDUCE THE
INCIDENCE OF RECIDIVISM.

WHEREAS, the vast majority of convicted criminals do not
remain in prison but return to the world outside and to the
communities from which they came; and

WHEREAS, studies show that within three years of release,
sixty-seven percent of former prisoners are rearrested and
fifty-two percent are reincarcerated for crimes committed in
our communities; and

WHEREAS, due to New Mexico's need for additional prison
beds, a medium-security, six-hundred-bed correctional facility
is being constructed in the town of Clayton and will house

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1 state prisoners at a projected cost to the state of over
2 seventeen million five hundred thousand dollars (\$17,500,000)
3 per year; and

4 WHEREAS, the corrections department projects that current
5 prison facilities, including the new Clayton facility, will be
6 at or over capacity by the summer of 2009; and

7 WHEREAS, a New Mexico sentencing commission report
8 estimates that, based on current inmate population growth, New
9 Mexico will need a new six-hundred-bed correctional facility
10 every three years; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico needs to improve the effectiveness of
12 facilitating the reentry and reintegration of persons with
13 criminal convictions into its communities; and

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico needs to rehabilitate persons with
15 criminal convictions in order to reduce the incidence of
16 recidivism and violence in its communities; and

17 WHEREAS, community services, adequate housing, gainful
18 employment and other programs are necessary to reintegrate
19 prisoners, reduce recidivism rates and provide for the
20 responsible early release of nonviolent prisoners;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
22 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
23 sentencing commission be requested to study and make
24 recommendations for needed community services and programs,
25 including housing, that support offender rehabilitation and

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1 reintegration into our communities; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission study and make
3 recommendations on programs and services needed to effectuate a
4 reduction in recidivism rates and to provide support for the
5 early release of nonviolent offenders into the community; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission report its
7 findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim
8 legislative committee no later than November 2007; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council and the New
11 Mexico sentencing commission.